

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 309259
ORIGIN INT-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

UNCLAS STATE 309259

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EMIN, GU, US

SUBJECT:REQUEST FOR GUINEA BAUXITE/ALUMINA STATISTICS

REFERENCE: CONAKRY 1600, CONAKRY 1805, STATE 11076

BU. MINES SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO
REFERENCE TELEGRAMS AND AS A FOLLOW-UP OF INITIAL RESPONSE
IN OCTOBER.

BU. MINES CAUTIONS END USERS ON USE AND INTERPRETATION OF
BAUXITE RESERVE DATA BECAUSE THEY ARE NECESSARILY IMPRECISE.
ALL RESERVE FIGURES ARE ESTIMATES. THE AVAILABILITY AND
RELIABILITY OF BASIC DATA ON WHICH ESTIMATES ARE BASED
DIFFER FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY. ESTIMATOR MAY ALSO BE
INCONSISTENT IN DEFINITION OF AND EVALUATION OF DATA.
RESERVES, AS DEFINED BY INTERIOR AGENCIES, ARE IDENTIFIED
RESOURCES THAT CAN BE ECONOMICALLY MINED AND USED AT THE
TIME THE ESTIMATE IS MADE. DETERMINATION OF THE QUANTITIES
THAT MEET THE DEFINITION OF RESERVES, I.E., IDENTIFIED AND
ECONOMICAL, IS A MATTER OF TECHNICAL JUDGMENT.
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PAGE 02 STATE 309259

BUREAU OF MINES IN COOPERATION WITH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
ESTIMATES WORLD BAUXITE RESERVES AND RESOURCES AT THE END
OF EACH YEAR, AND THE 1975 ESTIMATES ARE CURRENTLY BEING

REVIEWED. ESTIMATED GUINEA BAUXITE RESERVES IN 1975 WERE

4,500 MILLION LONG TONS OR 26 PERCENT OF WORLD TOTAL.

RANKING OF IBA MEMBER COUNTRIES AND OTHER COUNTRIES WITH
LARGE RESERVES IN 1975 WAS AS FOLLOWS:

- COUNTRY	MILLION TONS	
- GUINEA	4,500	
- AUSTRALIA	4,500	
- JAMAICA	1,000	
- SURINAM	500	
- INDONESIA	400	
- GHANA	330	
- YUGOSLAVIA	200	
- GUYANA	150	
- SIERRA LEONE	120	
- SOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI	80	
-		
- TOTAL IBA-----	11,780	
- BRAZIL	2,500	
- CAMEROON	750	
- GREECE	750	
- OTHERS	1,220	
-		
- TOTAL WORLD-----	17,000	

ALUMINA CONTENT IS NOT GIVEN IN THE ABOVE TABULATION
BECAUSE CONTENT VARIES FROM ONE TO ANOTHER AND WITHIN
DEPOSITS, AND AVERAGES FOR COUNTRIES CAN BE MISLEADING.
THE AVERAGE MAY NOT BE TYPICAL OF ANY DEPOSIT. MOREOVER,
ALUMINA CONTENT IS NOT THE ONLY CRITERION FOR ASSESSING
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PAGE 03 STATE 309259

QUALITY OF BAUXITE. THE FORM IN WHICH THE ALUMINA OCCURS,
THE REACTIVE SILICA CONTENT, AND OTHER PROPERTIES ARE ALSO
CONSIDERED.

BU. MINES CALLS ATTENTION TO BAUXITE RESERVE ESTIMATES
PUBLISHED BY THE IBA SINCE THE ABOVE BUREAU ESTIMATES
WERE PREPARED. RESERVES ESTIMATED BY THE IBA IN MILL-
IONS OF TONS WERE SHOWN IN THE IBA QUARTERLY REVIEW AS
FOLLOWS:

- COUNTRY	MEASURED	TOTAL
-	RESERVES	RESERVES
GUINEA	4,500	8,200
AUSTRALIA	1,270	4,700
JAMAICA	1,200	1,500
- GUYANA	500	1,000
- INDONESIA	700	700

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- GHANA	375	570
- SURINAM	271	490
- YUGOSLAVIA	200	400
- SIERRA LEONE	71	129
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	26	45
- HAITI	7	14
--		
TOTAL IBA-----	9,120	17,748
- BRAZIL	2,000	
- CAMEROON	1,000	
- INDIA	1,000	
- OTHERS (BY DIFFERENCE)	3,252	
-	--	
- TOTAL WORLD-----		25,000

THE PUBLICATION, THE MINER, WAS GIVEN AS THE SOURCE OF THE FIGURES FOR AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL, CAMEROON, AND INDIA. ALL UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 309259

OTHER IBA FIGURES WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES. THE JAMAICA BAUXITE INSTITUTE, AN AGENCY OF GOJ RECENTLY STATED THAT JAMAICAN RESERVES ARE NOW ESTIMATED AT 2,000 MILLION TONS. BUREAU OF MINES WORLD ESTIMATE FOR 1976 WILL REFLECT THE NEW AND HIGHER ESTIMATES MADE BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE IBA COUNTRIES.

AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF DIFFERENCES IN WORLD RESERVE ESTIMATES, RECENT OECD REPORT SHOWS TOTAL WORLD RESERVES AT 18,200 MILLION TONS, OF WHICH GUINEA 5,500, JAMAICA 900, SURINAM 700, BRAZIL 950, AND CAMEROON 1,100 MILLION TONS. NO OTHER COUNTRIES WERE LISTED.

BEST DATA AVAILABLE TO BUREAU OF MINES FOR 1975 SHOW GUINEA EXPORTS OF BAUXITE AT 6.8 MILLION METRIC TONS AND EXPORTS OF ALUMINA AT 650,000 METRIC TONS. TOTAL WORLD EXPORTS FOR 1975 ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE. GUINEA EXPORTS OF BAUXITE IN 1974 WERE ESTIMATED AT 3.8 MILLION TONS OR ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF WORLD EXPORTS. GUINEA EXPORTS OF ALUMINA IN 1974 WERE ESTIMATED AT 640,000 TONS OR 5 PERCENT OF WORLD ALUMINA EXPORTS.

WITH REFERENCE TO CONAKRY 1805, GUINEA PROVIDED 2,598,000 LONG TONS OR 22 PERCENT OF CRUDE AND DRIED BAUXITE IMPORTED INTO THE U.S. AND U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS IN 1975. GUINEA PROVIDED 1,476,000 TONS OR 25 PERCENT DURING FIRST HALF 1976. NO ALUMINA WAS IMPORTED IN 1975 OR FIRST HALF 1976 FROM GUINEA. ALUMINA NOT BAUXITE WAS EXPORTED FROM GUINEA TO CAMEROON FOR REFINING INTO ALUMINUM METAL. NO ALUMINA OR ALUMINUM WAS IMPORTED INTO U.S. FROM CAMEROON.

THE QUANTITY OF ALUMINA OR ALUMINUM DERIVED FROM GUINEA
BAUXITE IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND IMPORTED INTO UNITED STATES

IS NOT KNOWN, BUT IS BELIEVED TO BE NEGLIGIBLE.
ROBINSON

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